12. Voluntary sector is involved in the implementaion of the Programme through Council for Advancement of Peaple's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART).

Assamese Officers Posted in the Office of GSI, Shillong

3260. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assamese Officers in Senior ranks posted in the Shilong, G.S.I. Office; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of Assamese Officers have been denied their promotion for years together, if so, what are tthe reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) A total number of 16 Assamese Officers were posted in Shillong till recently. Of these 16 Officers, 7 have now been posted to Assam Regional Geology Division at Gowahati Circle Office.

(b) No, Sir. There is no case, where an Assamese Officer of senior rank has been deprived of this promotion for years together.

Doing Away Cess on Agricultural Produce

3261. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to do away with cases on agricultural produce;

(b) if so, what are the details of the cess being collected and on which produce; and

(c) the reason for withdrawing the cess on agriculural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to abolish cess on cotton, copra and vegetable oils being levied under the produce cess Act, 1966, Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegitable Oils Cess Act, 1983 respectively.

(c) To reduce the number of cesses and multiplicity of taxes.

Horticultural Division of CPWD

3262. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Adminstration zones of CPWD have Horticultural Division under their jurisdiction.

(b) if so the names of the Divisions and the circles under which they are placed;

(c) whether all the Horticultural works pertaining to these zones have been placed under these divisions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Hort. Development Division-I (PWD) (Delhi Administration), New Delhi, This Division is under the administrative control of Supdt. Engineer PWD, (Circle-III. Delhi Administration, New Delhi).

(ii) Hort. Development Division—II (PWD Delhi Administration) New Delhi. This Division is under the administrative control of the Supdt. Engineer, PWD, Circle—IV, Delhi Administration, New Delhi.

Both the Divisions are under the technical control of Additional Director of Horticulture, CPWD.

(c) No. Some of the maintenance works are still in CPWD under the Technical control of Additional Director (Horticulture).

((d) The works presently assigned to the two Horticultural Divisions under the Delhi Administration Zones are based on their workload capacity.

Depletion of Water in Ananthapur A.P.

3263. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water depletion is a serious problem in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad have made some study in the district;

(c) whether the study team has made some recommendations to check depletion of water in Ananthapur district, Andhra Pradsh; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The study made by the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad indicates decline in groundwater levels in Ananthapur district.

Measures like improving water use efficiency, licencing of ground water abstraction to avoid over exploitation, water harvesting and water proclation projects measures for improvement of revharge of groundwater reservoir, integrated land and water management, afforestation of micro watersheds in semi-arid areas and monitoring of ground water levels have been suggested by the study team.

The Central Ground Water Board is carrying out exploratory drilling to locate deeper acquifers to relieve stress on shallow acquifers and is also monitoring the behaviour of ground water levels. Steps like afforestation, construction of percolation tanks, use of sprinkler and dip irrigation systems are being taken up by the State Government.

Insanitation around Loni Road and Jagjivan Nagar area

3264. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to dirty and bad smell of water in the open drainage passing between the Loni Road, Bhagwanpur Khera and Jagjivan Nagar in Delhi the residents of these localities are suffering from several ailments;

(b) whether it is a fact that neither the M.C.D. nor any other authorities have even cleaned the said drainage since long; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to the MCD, no ailments connected with mosquite nuisance like Malaria etc. have been reported from these localities. The smell is due to open drain. Anti-larval insecticides operations are undertaken by the MCD every week to minimise the mosquito nuisance in the area.

(b) No, Sir. M.C.D. has reported that cleaning and desilting of the drain is done by it as and when required, to maintain its flow.